

AMERICAN BOARD OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE (ABEM)

UNDERSEA AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CERTIFICATION

The subspecialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (UHM) is a discipline that deals with the prevention of injury and illness due to exposure to environments in which the ambient pressure is increased, such as in diving or hyperbaric chamber exposure, and the therapeutic use of high environmental pressure and the delivery of oxygen under high pressure to treat disease. The scope of the subspecialty emphasizes the occupational, environmental, safety, and clinical aspects of diving, hyperbaric chamber operations, compressed air work, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Certification in the subspecialty of UHM is available to physicians certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) who fulfill the eligibility criteria and pass the UHM certification examination. ABEM co-sponsors this subspecialty with the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM).

The UHM eligibility criteria for ABEM-certified physicians were mutually determined by ABPM and ABEM. These criteria cannot be appealed.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The general criteria for emergency physicians seeking certification in UHM are as follows:

- The physician must be certified by ABEM
- The physician must be participating in ABEM's continuing certification process at the time of application and throughout the certification process.
- The physician must fulfill the ABEM Policy on Medical Licensure.

Additionally, the physician must fulfill the eligibility criteria of the Fellowship Training Pathway.

Fellowship Training Pathway

Physicians must have successfully completed a minimum of one year in an ACGME-accredited UHM fellowship.

If the UHM fellowship is structured so that it is longer than one year, the physician must successfully complete the requirements of the fellowship program to apply through this pathway.

The physician must successfully complete the fellowship training by the date of the examination.

ABEM will independently verify with the fellowship program director, the applicant's successful completion of the UHM fellowship training.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

Physicians seeking certification in more than one specialty or subspecialty may not apply the same postgraduate training period toward fulfilling the requirements of more than one specialty or subspecialty.

CERTIFICATION

ABEM-certified physicians who have met the UHM eligibility criteria and who pass the UHM Certification Examination are recognized as being certified in the subspecialty of UHM. Certification is for a period of ten years.

Physicians are not required to maintain their Emergency Medicine certification, but are required to participate in an ABEM-approved continuing certification process in order to renew certification beyond ten years.

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